

DTSC Welcomes U.S. EPA Adding Former Gold Mine to Superfund NPL

Sacramento – The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) applauds the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for its decision to list the Argonaut Mine on the Superfund National Priorities List (NPL). The decision makes the site of the former Amador County gold mine eligible to receive federal funding to clean up high levels of arsenic, lead and mercury deposited in the soil from historic gold mining operations.

“DTSC is pleased the U.S. EPA has listed the Argonaut Mine Site in the City of Jackson on the National Priorities List, which will provide federal funding to investigate and clean up the dangerous contamination from many years of mining operations, said DTSC Director Barbara A. Lee. “We welcome U.S. EPA’s decision and look forward to working with them to protect public health and the environment from this toxic legacy.”

The Argonaut Mine operated as a gold mine from the 1850s to 1942.

In November 2015, DTSC installed a storm water diversion system to help reduce the failure of the 100-year-old dilapidated Argonaut Dam located at the Site. The Department is in the early stages of developing both the retrofit design of the dam and the environmental reviews for the concept and will present the findings in a Remedial Action Plan and CEQA Document at the end of the year. DTSC is planning to start the construction in 2017.

To read more on the U.S. EPA listing of the Argonaut Mine Site on the NPL, click [here](#).